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1 March 1963

NSC Review Completed.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: White House Meeting on 10 September 1962
on Cuban Overflights

1. With reference to your query concerning the reasons why a Special Group meeting was convened on Tuesday, 10 September 1962 (rather than a regular Thursday meeting) for consideration of a proposed Cuban overflight; the reason why it was attended by Bundy, Rusk, McNamara, Taylor and the Attorney General rather than the regular 5412 members; and the impression of the tenor or thrust of the discussion at that meeting; I wish to advise you as follows:

a. The reason why the above named attended the meeting was apparently twofold: it followed another meeting, and the overflights were of particular concern to the Secretary of State.

b. The thrust of the meeting was that the planned program would avoid incidents. The evidence for this is shown by General Carter's recollection of the meeting and by Dr. Scoville's memory of the discussion.

2. The decision was made to break the flight up into four missions. This was interpreted by CIA representatives at the meeting as guidance to avoid a U-2 incident and not to overfly areas where SAMs were known to exist. It was for that reason that the DCI's recommendation of 7 September was not put forward.

3. A more detailed report on the meeting is attached.

Lyman B. Kirkpatrick
Executive Director